

# **PRACTICUM PROGRAM**

IN CLINICAL AND COUNSELING

## **HINES VA HOSPITAL**



**VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION  
PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE (116B)  
EDWARD HINES JR. HOSPITAL  
ROOSEVELT ROAD AND 5<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE  
HINES, IL 60141**

**Practicum Training Program**

**Practicum Training Coordinator:**

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## **HINES HOSPITAL**

Hines Hospital is one of the largest and most diversified medical and surgical hospitals in the Department of Veterans Affairs system. The hospital is a tertiary referral center with many specialty services including some that serve a large U.S. regional area. Hines is authorized to operate 660 hospital beds, and logged over 400,000 outpatient visits last year. The units and patient programs served by Psychology Service include Ambulatory Care, Blind Rehabilitation, Cardiac Care, Drug Dependency Treatment Center, Dual Diagnosis, Extended Care (Geriatric), Infectious Disease, Inpatient and Outpatient Psychiatry, Intensive Care Medicine, Neurology, Oncology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, PTSD Clinic, Spinal Cord Injury and Outpatient and Residential Substance Abuse.

As a VA hospital, Hines gives priority to the care of veterans whose injuries or medical conditions were obtained while in the military service of the United States. Hines is also authorized to serve all veterans who have limited financial resources. A high proportion of our patients are from ethnic minority groups, thereby enriching the cultural atmosphere of the hospital.

The Hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO), and has affiliations with numerous universities.

The Hospital and its academic affiliates conduct many symposia, workshops and consultant presentations on a broad range of topics from many health care fields. Several national, regional, state conferences, and conventions as well as the meetings of various psychological and related mental health professional associations are held on an annual basis in Chicago.

## **PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE**

The Psychology Service at Hines represents a health care model in keeping with the ideal set forth by the American Psychological Association, i.e., an independent clinical service directly responsible to the Associate Chief of Staff for the Mental Health Service Line.

The Psychology Service is comprised of 14 doctoral-level psychologists and two clerical staff. The broad range of expertise, background and experience represented in the staff is also reflected in the diversity of their professional assignments throughout the Hospital.

Psychologists work in traditional psychiatric and rehabilitation settings, as well as in neuropsychology, family therapy, and health psychology specialties such as pain management, oncology, heart disease, and HIV consultation.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Hines VA Hospital offers an extended eleven-month practicum, with two assessment oriented rotations. The practicum at Hines VA Hospital begins in early July and generally ends in late May. Practicum students are expected to complete 700+ hours within this time frame. Furthermore, students are expected to work at least 16 hours per week, with a typical workday beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m.. A student may devise a mix of full-and part-time hours at the discretion of his/her supervisor, due to student's class schedule. Students will work on one rotation for the entire year.

During their practicum experience, students will be closely supervised by a Ph.D.-level psychologist with a specialty in that particular area of the rotation. Supervision is typically provided at least 2 hours per week. Because Hines VA Hospital also has an APA-approved internship program, we are very familiar with providing excellence in training. Toward this end, we stress education, supervision, and training. Students are not treated as technicians. Practicum will allow students to apply classroom theory in a practical setting, to develop greater confidence in their clinical skills, and to mature as professional psychologists.

### **AVAILABLE PRACTICUM ROTATIONS:**

**Acute Inpatient Psychiatry and Psychosocial Residential Rehabilitation -**  
Dr. Thomas Murphy

**Neuropsychology & Clinical Neuroscience -** Dr. Kathleen O'Donnell  
Dr. Lukasz Konopka

**Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation –** Dr. Michael Blacconiere

## **DESCRIPTION OF PRACTICUM ROTATIONS:**

### **Acute Inpatient Psychiatry and Psychosocial Rehabilitation**

**Supervisor: Thomas Murphy. Ph.D.**

#### **Description:**

The student assesses patients in acute inpatient psychiatry or psychosocial residential rehabilitation units. Both units contain 30 beds and are staffed by multidisciplinary teams. The units admit male and female patients with moderate to severe psychiatric conditions, including schizophrenia, affective disorders, anxiety disorders, and personality disorders. Many patients have a secondary diagnosis of substance abuse or dependence. Patients are assessed primarily by diagnostic interviews and objective tests for purposes of differential diagnosis and treatment planning. Students also conduct screenings for neuropsychological disorders. Opportunities for projective testing are available. Courses in psychopathology and psychological assessment are strongly recommended prior to the practicum. Students receive a minimum of two hours of supervision per week. Early in the rotation, the supervisor and student see patients jointly.

#### **Primary Goals:**

Students in the psychiatric inpatient practicum will gain experience in the following skills and activities:

1. Diagnostic interviewing that elicits defensible hypotheses regarding a patient's personality and symptomatology
2. Administration, scoring and evaluating objective psychological tests that contribute to differential diagnosis and treatment planning
3. Documenting the process of assessment
4. Writing reports that integrate clinically important aspects of personality and symptomatology
5. Reaching a defensible diagnostic impression and prognosis
6. Recommending treatment approaches and identifying potential challenges to successful treatment
7. Integrating psychometric and decision making principles into assessment
8. Integrating facts emanating from experimental psychopathology into assessment

9. Providing verbal feedback to patients in the context of therapeutic assessment
10. Providing verbal feedback to staff that addresses referral question
11. Becoming adept at computerized scoring of tests and the use of computerized charting.

**Secondary Goals:**

Secondary goals are largely dependent on the student's schedule and completion of other assignments. The secondary goals include:

1. Participation in clinical staff meetings and contributing to patient management
2. Administration and scoring of projective tests
3. Gaining familiarity with the professional goals and identities of other members of the treatment team
4. Attendance at didactic sessions throughout the hospital.

## **Neuropsychology & Clinical Neuroscience Rotation**

**Supervisors:** Kathleen O'Donnell, Ph.D. (Clinical)  
Lukasz Konopka, Ph.D. (Research)

### **General Description:**

This rotation is designed for an advanced practicum student and/or a student who has a strong interest in Neuropsychology and the Clinical Neurosciences. Students will spend 2 days/week (16 hours) working as part of the Neuropsychology Consultation team with Dr. O'Donnell and, 1 day/week (8 hours; optional) working in the Clinical Neuroscience Laboratory with Dr. Konopka. As part of the Neuropsychology Consultation team, students will learn the clinical skills necessary to perform neuropsychological assessments while evaluating a broad range of neurocognitive disorders and neuropathological conditions (please see Neuropsychology description below). In the Clinical Neuroscience, students will become familiar with tools used to characterize brain pathophysiology, such as qEEG, evoked potentials, SPECT and MRI (please see Clinical Neuroscience description below), and will also be exposed to and participate in ongoing research studies. The Neuropsychology Consultation team meets the criteria for a clinical practicum, while the Clinical Neuroscience Laboratory experience provides a cutting edge opportunity to do research in the multidisciplinary environment of clinical neurosciences correlating neuropathology with neuropsychological findings.

### **Description of Neuropsychology Rotation:**

The practicum student will become familiar with the flexible battery approach to neuropsychological assessment. Students will learn qualitative and quantitative assessment techniques which are designed to answer specific consultation questions. Over time, students will learn how to operate in the role of a consultant, providing neuropsychology services to both an inpatient and outpatient population. Referral sources include Neurology, Psychiatry, General Medical and Surgical, and Psychology services. Consultations are utilized by a variety of medical disciplines, including physicians, psychologists, social workers, rehabilitation specialists, and nurses for diagnostic purposes, future management, rehabilitation, and/or determination of competency. Additionally, Neuropsychology's close working relationship with Neurology allows for the opportunity to attend grand rounds and monthly brain cuttings. Opportunities to become familiar with CT, MRI, and SPECT reports are also available and allow the student to correlate neuropsychological findings with neuroanatomical dysfunction. Family contact is frequent, particularly with outpatients, and education/ supportive services are common. The student will be exposed to a wide variety of neurocognitive disorders, including but not limited to: dementias, strokes and vascular disease, traumatic brain injury, toxic/metabolic disorders, aphasia, amnesic syndromes, and psychiatric disturbances. Most of the patients are in their late 60's and 70's, but ages may range from 18 to 95. Many patients are of a lower socioeconomic status and reflect a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds. Students will receive a minimum of 2 hours of supervision per week. Early in the rotation, the supervisor and student will see patients jointly, with the student working toward greater autonomy as their skill base increases.

### **Primary Goals:**

Students in the neuropsychology rotation will gain experience in the following skills and activities:

1. Increased familiarity with the process-oriented approach to neuropsychology
2. Exposure to a consultant model of interacting with other disciplines
3. Exposure to and basic understanding of neuroanatomy
4. Increased familiarity with a variety of neurocognitive disorders, including but not limited to: dementias, strokes and vascular disease, traumatic brain injury, toxic/metabolic disorders, aphasias, amnesic syndromes, and psychiatric disturbances.
5. An in-depth understanding of cortical and subcortical dementias
6. Learning to write clinically relevant reports
7. Learning to administer, score, and evaluate a wide variety of neuropsychological instruments
8. Increased ability to correlate neuropsychological findings with CT, MRI, and SPECT reports

### **Description of Clinical Neuroscience Research Rotation**

Experiences in neuroscience research may be available for those practicum students with both the interest and time. Under the supervision of Dr Lukasz Konopka, AM, PhD state of the art objective evaluation tools will be utilized to characterize brain pathophysiology. The tools routinely utilized in our laboratories are qEEG, evoked potentials in conjunction with brain SPECT and MRI studies. There are also some classical biochemical and neuropharmacological studies investigating the relationship of the mood disorders to cardiovascular illness.

Students will become familiar with brain imaging techniques, strength and weaknesses. They will participate in the reading sessions and statistical processing of the data sets. They will interact with the full spectrum of mental health professionals ranging from graduate and medical students to residents and attendings. They will also participate in research protocols with expectation of significant contribution leading to presentations and publications.



**Primary Goals/Objectives:**

- 1) Develop basic understanding of imaging technologies: be able to describe imaging techniques such as: MRI, fMRI, SPECT, PET, qEEG, EPs
- 2) Understand the strengths and limitations of the imaging techniques
- 3) Develop understanding of statistical methods used in imaging
- 4) Be able to explain what clinical and research questions may be addressed with these techniques
- 5) Begin to develop understanding of functional neuroanatomy
- 6) Begin to integrate imaging results with behavioral measures
- 7) Develop a project and /or presentation / publication finalized at the end of the Hines rotation.

## **Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**

**Supervisor: Dr. Michael Blacconiere**

### **Description:**

The student will provide assessment and some individual and group psychotherapy to patients on the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation service. On this ward, patients present with a variety of rehabilitation needs. Primary areas include stroke, amputation, cardiac, chronic illness and head injury. Students will assess patients by clinical interview augmented with screening instruments which may include the Mini-Mental Status Exam and Cognistat as indicated. A hybrid consultation/team model is in effect on the rehabilitation ward. Psychology Department responds to the consults provided by other members of the treatment team. Interdisciplinary staffing participation is essential in developing the student's ability to relate to other staff and develop a deeper understanding of the patient. Individual supervision may occur before and/or after a student's interview with a patient. Course work in psychopathology and psychotherapy are strongly recommended, and a course in medical psychology would be a plus. The student in this environment will gain exposure to medical psychology in a medical setting.

### **Primary Goals:**

Students in the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation practicum will gain experience in the following skills and activities:

1. Diagnostic interviewing for personality and psychopathology with an emphasis on understanding how these aspects will impact the rehabilitation process. Student will begin to integrate the five axes of the DSM-IV.
2. Administration, scoring and interpretation of selected screening instruments for cognitive impairment, depression and substance abuse.
3. Writing reports regarding assessment and/or psychotherapy that incorporate rehabilitation goals with psychological functioning.
4. Working as part of an interdisciplinary treatment team.
5. Developing knowledge regarding further consultation to other disciplines or treatment modalities.
6. Attendance at didactic sessions throughout the hospital depending on the students interests and needs.

## **DIRECTIONS**

**Hines Hospital is located in Chicago's western suburbs, at Fifth Avenue and Roosevelt Road, adjacent to the towns of Maywood and Broadview.**

**From the North or South:**

**Take 1-294 (Tri-State Tollway) - to 1-290 (Eisenhower Expressway).**

**East on 1-290 (Chicago) - to First Avenue exit (Exit #20).**

**Turn right (South) on First Avenue - to Roosevelt Road (Route 38).**

**Turn right (West) on Roosevelt - go to Fifth Avenue (the first stop light).**

**Turn left to enter the Hines Hospital grounds.**

**From the Far Western suburbs:**

**Take 1-88 - to 1-290.**

**East on 1-290 - to Exit #20**

**Follow directions above from Exit #20.**

**From Downtown Chicago:**

**Take 1-290 (West) - to Exit #20**

**Turn left (South ) on First Avenue.**

**Follow directions above from Exit #20.**

**Visitor Parking is available in parking lots just East of Building 228 (Mental Health Building); also in front of Building 200 (main 15 story hospital).**

**Please call in advance for directions once you enter the hospital building.**

